



Cher (Dear) Parent,

Bonjour! I am looking forward with pleasure to my second year at Finneytown, and want to let you know about the experience your son or daughter will have in French class this year. Finneytown is an outstanding school with amazing parent support for an incredible group of students, and I am proud and honored to work with this community.

Now more than ever, learning a second language is essential for our young citizens. In this classroom, we are working with more than vocabulary and verbs; we are learning about how the world perceives us and how we can better understand our present, past and future relations with others near and far in this 21st century. French is a beautiful, useful language worldwide, and has multiple historic and linguistic connections with the United States and the English language. I love teaching this language and its cultures, and it is my mission to share my francophone/Francophile experiences and enthusiasm with students, and help them become motivated, lifelong learners and world citizens.

Please take a moment to look over the information included with this letter. I have also attached a form for you to sign, along with your child, and return to me via your child. If you have any questions or need to contact me at any time during the school year, please do not hesitate to do so! Through my experience at the high school level, I know that open parent/teacher communication is vital.

Merci, et à bientôt,

Sarah Shackelford
French Teacher, Finneytown

About French Classes at Finneytown , 2012-2013

Teacher: Sarah Shackelford, room 207

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My Homepage: <http://madameshackelford.wikispaces.com/>

Phone: (513) 931-0712 (school) or 513-560-1828 (cell) or (513) 202-4137(Google voice number; leave a voicemail.)

Please don't hesitate to contact me anytime by email or phone and/or set up an appointment to meet with me.

Class rules and procedures: are posted, along with class syllabi and other information, on the French class wiki (<http://madameshackelford.wikispaces.com/>) under "French Class Information". Each student will receive a copy of these items and be expected to keep them in his/her French notebook.

Updates and news:

I will regularly and promptly post grades on Progress Book, and all class assignments will be posted both in Progress Book and Itslearning. Our class wiki (address above) contains much French class content, useful resources for students, practice exercises, links of interest, etc. Pertinent, unit specific content will be found in Itslearning, which will often link back to the wiki. I will occasionally post class news of interest and student work on the French Class

Blog:<http://madameshackelford.blogspot.com/> and on a blog within Itslearning.

Tips for helping your child succeed in French Class:

- Learning another language is a lot more like learning to play a musical instrument than it is like learning other academic subjects. It requires daily practice and exposure. I provide students with multiple strategies to help them – songs and ditties, movement activities, etc., and tell them that they can use these as a means to practice French even while showering, taking a walk, etc. Many students find that making flashcards is helpful, using pictures on one side and the word on another.
- Research has linked repeating/speaking aloud while studying with increased retention. When learning a language, this is enormously beneficial.
- Encourage your child to teach other family members, including you, what he/she has learned.
- Invite your child to attempt to use the language whenever possible...with you, the rest of the family, any pets, and with friends.
- Today's students are fortunate in that the internet and the apps available with mobile technology can bring French music, radio, television, books, etc. straight to them. Links to many of these resources are available on the wiki.
- Communicate with me and encourage your child to do the same.

